

New House Panel on CIA Is Sought

By Mary Russell

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House Democrats dissatisfied with Congressional oversight of the Central Intelligence Agency will seek to create a new House Select Committee on Intelligence when the 291 House Democrats caucus Monday and Tuesday.

Rep. Michael J. Harrington (D-Mass.), author of the select committee proposal, said, "Every time I read that major, independent congressional committees are going to undertake investigations at the current allegations of illegal domestic surveillance by the CIA, I want to laugh. The day-to-day record of those committees is replete with indications that they didn't know or didn't want to know what's going on."

Harrington charged that, in fact, the committees had been "willing patsies" for the CIA, providing a "fictional cover" of congressional approval.

In a letter to Democratic Caucus Chairman Phillip Burton (D-Calif.), Harrington charged that last year the House Armed Services sub-

committee on intelligence, headed by Rep. Lucien N. Nedzi (D-Mich.), "devoted more time in hearings concerned with the unauthorized disclosure of classified information than with widespread accusations of improper agency actions."

He said his proposed select committee would look into not only the current allegations of domestic surveillance but "all facets of both CIA operations and congressional oversight."

"Left in the hands of the new presidential commission and the existing oversight committees, the CIA can be expected to weather the current controversy with little change in its policy and operations," Harrington said.

A Senate Armed Services subcommittee headed by John C. Stennis (D-Miss) has jurisdiction over the CIA on the Senate side, while the House Foreign Affairs Committee shares some jurisdiction on the House side.

Nedzi has already announced plans to investigate the current charges that the CIA spied on Americans in the United States and said

yesterday that formation of a new panel would just "duplicate efforts" of his committee. He said last year's committee reorganizations were intended "to streamline committees and not proliferate them."

"Rep. Harrington's free to charge whatever he desires, but in the final analysis the record with disclose we have done an extremely diligent and effective job since we have done an extremely diligent and effective job since record will disclose we have been delegated the responsibility for the CIA," Nedzi declared.

Nedzi said his subcommittee wasn't established until late in 1971 and "didn't get organized until 1972." By that time, he said, allegations of CIA participation in Watergate and other domestic activities had "all been known already."

Of the current allegations, Nedzi said, "While we have had some information on domestic operations, it did not correspond to the implications recently printed in the press and that's why we intend to hold hearings."

Harrington called his proposal's chances in caucus "probably pretty good." After that would come a floor vote by the full House.

Harrington said formation of a special congressional CIA committee—"an independent investigatory mechanism"—has already been endorsed by former CIA director John McCone and Clark Clifford, former chairman of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

Meanwhile, Sen. Lowell P. Weicker Jr. (R-Conn.) said he will reintroduce legislation to create a Senate-House oversight committee with "broad powers to police the U.S. intelligence community." A Senate Government Operations subcommittee held two days of hearings last year on the proposal, which Weicker said had "the support of over one-third of the Senate."

One function of the proposed joint committee would be to authorize the funding for the CIA and the National Security Agency, so that their budgets could not be concealed in defense appropriations bills, Weicker said.